

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. In the Office Action, mailed May 16, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 8, 9, 11 and 12, objected to claims 4-7, 10 and 13, and allowed claims 37-41. By this response, claims 1, 5-8 and 11 have been amended; claims 4, 10 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice (claims 14-36 and 42-52 having been previously cancelled without prejudice); and no claims have been added. Following entry of this response, claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, 12 and 37-41 will be pending in the application.

Allowed Claims 37-41

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 37-41. Applicants thank the Examiner for correctly noting the novelty and non-obviousness of the subject matter contained in these claims.

Allowable Claims 4-7, 10 and 13

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected-to, but noted the allowability of, dependent claims 4-7, 10 and 13. Applicants thank the Examiner for correctly noting the novelty and non-obviousness of the subject matter contained in these claims, and for also noting that these claims would be allowed if re-written in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding Claim 4, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of dependent claim 4 (and cancelled, without prejudice, claim 4), thereby making allowable independent claim 1. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to now depend from independent claim 1 instead of dependent claim 4.

Regarding Claim 7, Applicants have amended dependent claim 7 to include all of the limitations of independent claim 1, the only claim from which dependent claim 7 depended. Also, dependent claim 7 has been re-written in independent form, thereby making it allowable.

Regarding Claim 10, Applicants have amended independent claim 8 to include the limitations of dependent claim 10 (and cancelled, without prejudice, claim 10), thereby making allowable independent claim 8.

Regarding Claim 13, Applicants have amended independent claim 11 to include the limitations of dependent claim 13 (and cancelled, without prejudice, claim 13), thereby making allowable independent claim 11.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,512,737 to Brian G. Agee (hereinafter "Agee"). Applicants respectfully assert that, based on the amendments discussed above, the Examiner's rejections of claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 11 and 12 have been rendered moot. Applicants request withdrawal of these rejections.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Charge Statement: For this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: August 16, 2007

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